

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1697–S1740

Measures Introduced: Seven bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2151–2157, S. Res. 395–398, and S. Con. Res. 34. **Pages S1730–31**

Measures Passed:

Philippines Charitable Giving Assistance Act: Senate passed H.R. 3771, to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. **Page S1706**

Subsequently, Senate indefinitely postponed S. 1821, to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. **Page S1706**

Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act: Senate passed H.R. 4275, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for cooperative and small employer charity pension plans. **Page S1710**

National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 396, designating March 25, 2014, as “National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day”. **Pages S1739–40**

Public Service Recognition Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 397, expressing the sense of the Senate that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States during Public Service Recognition Week. **Pages S1739–40**

Authorizing Production of Records: Senate agreed to S. Res. 398, to authorize the production of records by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. **Pages S1739–40**

Measures Considered:

Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the

motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine.

Pages S1703–06, S1706–10, S1710–20

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to proceed be withdrawn.

Pages S1719–20

Ukraine Loan Guarantees—Agreement: Senate began consideration of H.R. 4152, to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine, taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S1719–20

Pending:

Reid (for Menendez/Corker) Amendment No. 2867, to provide a complete substitute. **Page S1720**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that no other amendments be in order; that no points of order or motions be in order other than budget points of order and the applicable motions to waive; that following morning business on Thursday, March 27, 2014, there be two hours of debate equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees, prior to a vote on or in relation to Reid (for Menendez/Corker) Amendment No. 2867 (listed above); that upon disposition of Reid (for Menendez/Corker) Amendment No. 2867, the bill be read a third time and Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended. **Pages S1719–20**

Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. **Page S1720**

Cooper, Harpool, McHugh, Smith, and Westphal Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 11 a.m., on Wednesday, March 26, 2014, Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Christopher Reid Cooper, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, M. Douglas Harpool, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, Gerald Austin

McHugh, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Edward G. Smith, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; that if cloture is invoked on any of these nominations, the time until 2:30 p.m. be equally divided between the Leaders, or their designees, and that at 2:30 p.m., all post-cloture time be expired, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; that following Senate action on these nominations, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination of Joseph William Westphal, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Department of State; and that there be two minutes for debate prior to each vote and all roll call votes after the first vote in each sequence be 10 minutes in length.

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Messages from the House: Page S1729

Measures Referred: Page S1729

Measures Placed on the Calendar: Pages S1697, S1729

Measures Read the First Time: Pages S1729, S1740

Executive Communications: Pages S1729–30

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S1731–32

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S1732–34

Additional Statements: Pages S1726–29

Amendments Submitted: Pages S1734–39

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: Page S1739

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S1739

Privileges of the Floor: Page S1739

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:16 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 26, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1740.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, after receiving testimony from Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary, Robert A. Petzel, Under Secretary for Health, Allison A. Hickey, Under Secretary for Benefits, Steven L. Muro, Under

Secretary for Memorial Affairs, Stephen Warren, Executive in Charge for Information and Technology, and Helen Tierney, Executive in Charge for the Office of Management and Chief Financial Officer, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

APPROPRIATIONS: UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE, SENATE SERGEANT AT ARMS, AND THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the United States Capitol Police, the Senate Sergeant at Arms, and the Secretary of the Senate, after receiving testimony from Kim C. Dine, Chief of Police, United States Capitol Police; Terrance W. Gainer, Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate; and Nancy Erickson, Secretary of the Senate.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine United States Pacific Command and United States Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III, USN, Commander, United States Pacific Command, and General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, USA, Commander, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, and United States Forces Korea, both of the Department of Defense.

MAINTAINING U.S. MILITARY TECHNOLOGY SUPERIORITY

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities received a closed briefing on challenges to maintaining United States military technology superiority from Frank Kendall III, Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, and Alan R. Shaffer, Acting Assistant Secretary for Research and Engineering, both of the Department of Defense.

IMPORTING ENERGY AND EXPORTING JOBS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine importing energy and exporting jobs, after receiving testimony from Adam Sieminski, Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy; Jaroslav Neverovic, The Republic of Lithuania Minister of Energy, Vilnius; and W. David Montgomery, NERA Economic Consulting, David L. Goldwyn, Brookings Institution, and Edward C. Chow, Center

for Strategic and International Studies, all of Washington, D.C.

TRANSPARENCY IN TRAINING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia concluded a hearing to examine transparency and training, focusing on preparing our first responders for emerging threats and hazards, after receiving testimony from Mike King, Acting Director of National Training and Education, Superintendent of the Center for Domestic Preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security; Tim McLean, Casselton Fire Chief, Wheatland, North Dakota; and Lisa A. Stabler, Transportation Technology Center, Inc., Pueblo, Colorado, on behalf of the Association of American Railroads.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine teacher preparation, focusing on ensuring a quality teacher in every classroom, after receiving testimony from Jeanne M. Burns, Louisiana Board of Regents Associate Commissioner for Teacher and Leadership Initiatives, Baton Rouge; Edward Crowe, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, Princeton, New Jersey; Mary Brabeck, Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, and Timothy Daly, The New Teacher Project, both of New York, New York; and Mari Koerner, Arizona State University Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College, Tempe.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 8 public bills, H.R. 4290–4297; and 3 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 94–95; and H. Res. 523 were introduced.

Page H2644

Additional Cosponsors:

Page H2645

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 4005, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2015 and 2016, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–384) and

H. Res. 524, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1459) to ensure that the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 applies to the declaration of national monuments, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (H. Rept. 113–385).

Page H2644

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Massie to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H2613

Recess: The House recessed at 10:37 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Page H2617

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest chaplain, Reverend John Rosenberg, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Olympia, Washington.

Page H2617

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote.

Pages H2617, H2635

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 523, electing a Member to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives.

Page H2621

Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America: The House passed

H.R. 2824, to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to stop the ongoing waste by the Department of the Interior of taxpayer resources and implement the final rule on excess spoil, mining waste, and buffers for perennial and intermittent streams, by a recorded vote of 229 ayes to 192 noes, Roll No. 141.

Pages H2621–34, H2634–35

Rejected the Bera (CA) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 197 ayes to 224 noes, Roll No. 140.

Pages H2633–34

Pursuant to the rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–41, modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 113–374, shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule.

Pages H2628–29

Rejected:

Lowenthal amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 113–374) that sought to require States to implement the June 30, 1983 Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement stream buffer zone rule, unless a State has a program with greater stream protection (by a recorded vote of 188 ayes to 231 noes, Roll No. 138) and **Pages H2629–30, H2631–32**

Cartwright amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 113–374) that sought to ensure that States maintain the ability to issue their own stream buffer rules (by a recorded vote of 196 ayes to 225 noes, Roll No. 139). **Pages H2630–31, H2632**

H. Res. 501, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2824) and (H.R. 2641), was agreed to on March 6, 2014.

Announcement by the Chair: The Speaker addressed the Members on matters of decorum in the House. **Page H2634**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H2634.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2631–32, H2632, H2633–34, and H2635. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, APPLIED ENERGY FUNDING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development held a hearing on the Budget for Department of Energy, Applied Energy Funding. Testimony was heard from David Danielson, Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; Pete Lyons, Assistant Secretary, Nuclear Energy; Christopher Smith, Acting Assistant Secretary, Fossil Energy; and Patricia Hoffman, Assistant Secretary, Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.

APPROPRIATIONS—USDA FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES FY 2015 BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies held a hearing on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services FY 2015 Budget. Testimony was heard from Kevin Concannon, Under Secretary, Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, Department of Agriculture; Audrey Rowe, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agri-

culture; and Michael Young, Budget Officer, Department of Agriculture.

APPROPRIATIONS—NAVY AND MARINE CORPS FY 2015 BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing for Navy and Marine Corps FY 2015 Budget. Testimony was heard from Ray Mabus, Secretary, United States Navy; Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy; and General James F. Amos, Commandant, United States Marine Corps.

APPROPRIATIONS—TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION FY 2015 BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on Transportation Security Administration FY 2015 Budget. Testimony was heard from John Pistole, Administrator, Transportation Security Administration.

APPROPRIATIONS—LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education held a hearing for public and outside witnesses. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR FY 2015 BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies held a hearing on Department of the Interior FY 2015 Budget. Testimony was heard from Sally Jewell, Secretary, Department of the Interior.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, SCIENCE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, held a hearing on Department of Energy, Science Budget. Testimony was heard from Patricia Dehmer, Acting Director, Office of Science, Department of Energy.

APPROPRIATIONS—FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FY 2015 BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a hearing on Federal Communications Commission FY 2015 Budget. Testimony was heard from Tom Wheeler, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET—DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing on Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Budget Request from the Department of the Army. Testimony was heard from John McHugh, USA, Secretary of the Army, U.S. Army; and General Raymond T. Odierno, Chief of Staff of the Army, U.S. Army.

MILITARY PERSONNEL OVERVIEW

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing on Military Personnel Overview. Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General Howard B. Bromberg, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, U.S. Army; Vice Admiral William F. Moran, Chief of Naval Personnel and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education, U.S. Navy; Sheryl E. Murray, Assistant Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; and Jessica L. Wright, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense.

MISSILE DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing on Fiscal Year 2015 Missile Defense. Testimony was heard from M. Elaine Bunn, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy, Department of Defense; Lieutenant General David L. Mann, U.S. Army, Commander, United States Strategic Command, Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense; and Vice Admiral James D. Syring, U.S. Navy, Director, Missile Defense Agency.

MEMBERS' DAY

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Members' Day". Testimony was heard from the following members of Congress: Schneider; Danny Davis (IL); Schakowsky; Christensen; Reed; Foster; Johnson (GA); Lummis; Kilmer; LaMalfa; Titus; McDermott; Fattah; Lofgren; McGovern; Ellison; Posey; Mulvaney; Griffith (VA); Gosar; Perry; and Esty.

STRENGTHENING THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education held a hearing entitled "The Foundation for Success: Strengthening the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program". Testimony was heard from Gloria Jarmon, Deputy Inspector General for Audit Services, Office of the Inspector General,

Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology concluded markup on a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes. The bill was forwarded to the full committee, as amended.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Power held a hearing on H.R. 6, the "Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act". Testimony was heard from Paula Gant, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Oil and Natural Gas, Department of Energy; Anita Orbán, Ambassador-at-Large for Energy Security, Government of Hungary; and public witnesses.

WHY DEBT MATTERS

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Why Debt Matters". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4278, the "Ukraine Support Act"; H. Res. 494, affirming the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act; and H. Res. 418, urging the Government of Burma to end the persecution of the Rohingya people and respect internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma. The following bill and resolutions were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 4278; H. Res. 418; and H. Res. 494.

DEVELOPMENT AID PROGRAMS TO BOLSTER HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled "The First One Thousand Days: Development Aid Programs to Bolster Health and Nutrition". Testimony was heard from Tjada D'Oyen McKenna, Acting Assistant to the Administrator, Bureau for Food Security, U.S. Agency for International Development; and public witnesses.

U.S. DISENGAGEMENT FROM LATIN AMERICA: COMPROMISED SECURITY AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere held a hearing entitled “U.S. Disengagement from Latin America: Compromised Security and Economic Interests”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY’S FY 2015 BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications held a hearing entitled “The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s FY 2015 Budget Request: Ensuring Effective Preparedness, Response, and Communications”. Testimony was heard from W. Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation held a hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 863, the “Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women’s History Museum Act of 2013”; H.R. 3006, to authorize a land exchange involving the acquisition of private land adjacent to the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona for inclusion in the refuge in exchange for certain Bureau of Land Management lands in Riverside County, California, and for other purposes; H.R. 4017, to designate a peak located in Nevada as “Mount Reagan”; H.R. 4120, to amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date; and H.R. 4253, to permanently withdraw, reserve, and transfer Bureau of Land Management lands used for military purposes in Alaska, Nevada, and New Mexico to the appropriate Secretary of the military department concerned. Testimony was heard from the following Representatives: Blackburn; Maloney (NY); and Hoyer; and Ned Farquhar, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Lands and Mineral Management, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Interior; and Bob Vogel, Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks, National Park Service, Department of Labor.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power held a hearing entitled “Examining the Proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Spending, Priorities and the Missions of the Bureau of Reclamation, the Four Power Marketing Administrations and the U.S. Geological Survey’s Water Program”. Testimony was heard from Jerad Bales, Acting Associate Director for Water, U.S. Geological Survey; Lowell

Pimley, Acting Commissioner, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Elliot Mainzer, Administrator, Bonneville Power Administration; Mark Gabriel, Administrator, Western Area, Power Administration; Christopher Turner, Acting Administrator, Southwestern Power Administration; and Kenneth Legg, Administrator, Southeastern Power Administration.

ENSURING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE CREATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1459, the “Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act”. The Committee granted by record vote of 6–3, a structured rule for H.R. 1459. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In Section 2, the rule provides that it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of March 27, 2014, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules relating to a measure addressing the Medicare payment system for physicians and a measure addressing Ukraine. Testimony was heard from Chairman Hastings (WA) and Representative Bishop (UT).

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a markup to consider the views and estimates on the Small Business Administration’s FY 2015 budget request. The Committee passed the views and estimates.

THE ROLE OF TRADING IN ACHIEVING CLEAN WATER OBJECTIVES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled “The Role of Trading in

Achieving Clean Water Objectives”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on H.R. 3593, the “VA Construction Assistance Act of 2013”; H.R. 4261, the “Gulf War Health Research Reform Act of 2014”; and H.R. 4281, the “Protecting Business Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2014”. Testimony was heard from Stella S. Fiotes, Executive Director, Office of Construction and Facilities Management, Office of Acquisition, Logistics and Construction, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Gregory Wilshusen, Director, Information Security Issues, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 2942, to amend title 38, United States Code, to reestablish the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 3056, the “Warriors’ Peer-Outreach Pilot Program Act”; H.R. 3614, the “Military Skills to Careers Act”; H.R. 4031, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance, and for other purposes; H.R. 4037, the “Improving Veterans’ Access to Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Act of 2014”; H.R. 4038, the “Veterans Benefits Administration Information Technology Improvement Act of 2014”; H.R. 4147, the “Student Veterans IT Upgrade Act”; H.R. 4150, the “Veterans Employment and Training Service Longitudinal Study Act of 2014”; and H.R. 4151, the “Veterans Education Survey Act of 2014”. Testimony was heard from Curtis Coy, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity, Department of Veterans Affairs; Keith Kelly, Assistant Secretary, Veterans’ Employment and Training Service, Department of Labor; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D297)

H.R. 2650, to allow the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in the State of Minnesota to lease or transfer certain land. Signed on March 21, 2014. (Public Law 113–88)

H.R. 3370, to delay the implementation of certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. Signed on March 21, 2014. (Public Law 113–89)

H.R. 4076, to address shortages and interruptions in the availability of propane and other home heating fuels in the United States. Signed on March 21, 2014. (Public Law 113–90)

S.J. Res. 32, providing for the reappointment of John W. McCarter as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. Signed on March 21, 2014. (Public Law 113–91)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Interior, 9:15 a.m., SD–124.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Agriculture, 10 a.m., SD–192.

Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Navy, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold hearings to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 10 a.m., SR–222.

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine the the current readiness of United States forces in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR–232A.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine strategic forces programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Office of Environmental Management of the Department of Energy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection, to hold hearings to examine if alternative financial products are serving consumers, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine protecting personal consumer information from cyber attacks and data breaches, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the President’s proposed

budget request for fiscal year 2015 for the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine Syria after Geneva, focusing on the next steps for United States policy, 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine strengthening public-private partnerships to reduce cyber risks to our nation's critical infrastructure, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for Tribal Programs, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of, "The Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act", 10 a.m., SD-226.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine preventing Medicare fraud, focusing on the best way to protect seniors and taxpayers, 2:15 p.m., SD-562.

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: to hold hearings to examine America's addiction to opioids, focusing on heroin and prescription drug abuse, 2:30 p.m., SD-192.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry, hearing to Review the impacts of Endangered Species Act and related litigation on National Forest System management, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies, hearing on Federal Bureau of Investigation's Post 9/11 Reform Efforts FY 2015 Budget and Oversight, 9 a.m., H-309 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies, hearing on USDA Research, Education and Economic FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, hearing on Air Force Budget FY 2015, 10 a.m., H-140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, hearing on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., 2362-B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing on Federal Emergency Management Agency, FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education oversight hearing entitled "Future of Biomedical Research", 10 a.m., 2358-C Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, hearing on U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea, 2 p.m., H-140 Capitol. This is a closed hearing.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, hearing on Bureau of Reclamation FY 2015 Budget, 2 p.m., 2362-B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing on the Judiciary FY 2015 Budget, 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing on Interim Report of the Advisory Panel

on the Governance of the Nuclear Security Enterprise, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing on Fiscal Year 2015 Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Combat Aviation Programs, 12:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing on Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2015 Science and Technology Programs: Pursuing Technology Superiority in a Changing Security Environment, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, hearing on Department of the Navy Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request for Seapower and Projection Forces, 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Reviewing the President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Proposal for the Department of Labor", 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Where Have All the Patients Gone? Examining the Psychiatric Bed Shortage", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Geopolitical Potential of the U.S. Energy Boom", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing entitled "The Shocking Truth about North Korean Tyranny", 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, markup on H.R. 4228, the "DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act", 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations, hearing entitled "Innocence for Sale: Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law, hearing entitled "Exploring Chapter 11 Reform: Corporate and Financial Institution Insolvencies; Treatment of Derivatives", 4 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Collision Course: Oversight of the Obama Administration's Enforcement Approach for America's Wildlife Laws and Its Impact on Domestic Energy", 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Examining the IRS Response to the Targeting Scandal", 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled "A Review of the President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request for Science Agencies", 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce, hearing entitled "Barriers to Opportunity: Do Occupational Licensing Laws Unfairly Limit Entrepreneurship and Jobs?", 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled "President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget

Request for Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Programs”, 9:30 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 2018, the “Honor Those Who Served Act of 2013”; H.R. 2088, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to establish claims adjudication centers of excellence; H.R. 2119, the “Veterans Access to Speedy Review Act”; H.R. 2529, the “Veteran Spouses Equal Treatment Act”; H.R. 3671, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the eligibility for a medallion furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to signify the veteran status of a deceased individual; H.R. 3876, the “Burial with Dignity for Heroes Act of 2014”; H.R. 4095, the “Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2014”; H.R. 4102, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify that the estate of a deceased veteran may receive certain

accrued benefits upon the death of the veteran, and for other purposes; H.R. 4141, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into enhanced-use leases for excess property of the National Cemetery Administration that is unsuitable for burial purposes; and H.R. 4191, the “Quicker Veterans Benefits Delivery Act”, 3:30 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Joint Meetings

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine unwinding quantitative easing, focusing on how the Fed should promote stable prices, economic growth, and job creation, 2 p.m., SH–216.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, March 26

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, March 26

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 11 a.m.), Senate will vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Christopher Reid Cooper, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, M. Douglas Harpool, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, Gerald Austin McHugh, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Edward G. Smith, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

And, that if cloture is invoked on the nominations, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations at 2:30 p.m.

Following the 2:30 p.m. votes, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Joseph William Westphal, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Department of State.

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Begin consideration of H.R. 1459—Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act (Subject to a Rule).

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